

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 17 are amended, claims 12 and 16 are canceled, and claims 1-11, 13-16, and 17-19 are pending in the application.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12-19 is acknowledged with appreciation. Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the limitations of respective dependent claims 12 and 16. Hence, it is believed this application is in condition for allowance.

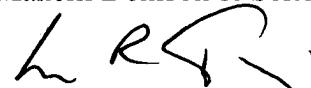
Claims 1, 6, 7 and 11 were rejected under 35 USC §103 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,383,117 to Tateishi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,347,395 to Payne et al. Claims 2-5 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 USC §103 in view of Tateishi et al., Payne et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,721,728 to Fowler et al. The foregoing amendments renders these rejections moot.

In view of the above, it is believed this application is in condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any missing or insufficient fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a), to Deposit Account No. 50-0687, under Order No. 95-360, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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